of 3,700 kilometres. (*Interruptions*) ... I don't have the U.S. figure. I have the figure of U.K. I have the figure of France. France is charging 7,132 dollars. (*Interruptions*) ...

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : मैडम, ये पक्का व्यवसाय कर रहे है ... (व्यवधान)

श्री अजीत जोगी : बी०जे०पी० के 12 बजे। एकदम 12 बजे आए हैं ... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : अपने नहीं तुम्हारे 12 बजा के आए है ... (व्यवधान)

106. [*The questioner* (*Shri Pasumpon Tha Kiruttinan*) *was absent. For answer Vide Col. ... infra.*]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question No. 107. (*Interruptions*) ... Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Restoration of Admissible portion of Pension to Govt. Servants Absorbed in Public Enterprises

@*106. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by Government on the appeal dated 30th March, 1993 submitted to him by the Welfare Association of Absorbed Central Government Employees in Public Enterprises regarding the restoration of admissible portion of pension to Government servants absorbed in public sector undertakings, in the light of the orders dated 3rd February, 1993, passed by the Supreme Court of India on Writ Petition (Civil) No. 11855/85 filed by the said association ;

(b) if no action has so far been taken on the appeal, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Government has considered in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court of 3rd February 1993 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 11855/85 the matter raised in the Appeal dated 30-3-1993 from the Welfare Association of Absorbed Central Government Employees in Public Enterprises. It has been decided that the benefit of restoration of commuted value of pension, whether the whole or 1/3rd portion, was not admissible to the petitioners. The General Secretary of the Welfare Association was apprised of the Government's decision by a letter dated 15th July, 1993.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Operation of private airlines in the country

*107. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that private airlines are operating in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of private airlines permitted to operate in the country ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Act under which the operation of private airlines is permitted, has been amended ; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that private airlines operators are not being provided the required facilities by the Airport Authority, and, if so, what steps Government are taking to provide the required facilities to private airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) At present, 17 operators hold Air Taxi Operators' Permit.

@ Previously Starred Question No. 66, transferred from the December, 1993.

(c) Air Taxi operations are permitted under AIC No. 24 of 1990 issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation, as amended from time to time.

(d) Subject to constraints of space, air taxi operators are being provided facilities like counter space, office space, parking, maintenance and other related facilities. It will take some time to provide adequate hanger facilities to meet semands fully.

Product diversification envisaged by Scooters India Limited

*108. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of product diversification programme envisaged by the Scooters India Limited for making the company a profitable one ;

(b) whether the company has not initiated any new technological changes ;

(c) whether some foreign companies have agreed to offer their services for the diversification programme with financial assistance ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) what further steps are being taken to enable the company to change its product ranges ?

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (e) Scooters India Limited (SIL) has been referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which is examining the long-term viability of SIL. Further steps would depend on the final recommendation of BIFR.

Post-Earthquake Tremors in Maharashtra

*109. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA ;
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of tremors have taken place after the devastating earth-quake in Maharashtra ;

(b) whether any study has been made in the matter ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes Sir, After the occurence of the Main earthquake on September 30, 1993, with epicentre close to Latur in Maharashtra, aftershok activity started and is still continuing. Earthquakes of magnitude of around 5 and above generally give rise to aftershock sequence. Till December 1, 1993 a total of 116 aftershocks have been recorded, their magnitude range being between 1.0 to 5.2 on Richter scale.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, India Meteorological Department established five temporary Seismic field stations in the earthquake affected area to monitor aftershock activity. A few other organisations also set up temporary observatories. Most of these aftershocks have epicentres in a narrow zone of about 908 sq. km. and mean radius of 17 km. from the main earquake. The aftershock area are is bounded by Latitude 17°—8' to 18°— 2'N and longitude 76°— 4' to 76°— 7' in the Ausa and Nilanga Tehsils of Latur district and Umarga Tehsil of Osmanabad district. There appears to be no clear evidence of trend of migration of these epicentres in any particular direction. The aftershock area consists a total rock mass volume